Allocation of gas for power projects in Gujarat

*230. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to allocate additional gas for power generation projects in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, by when this allocation will be actually made?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Additional allocation of gas to Gujarat for power generation would be made subject to enhanced availability of gas.

Recovery of dues from M/s Bharti Mobiles Limited

*231. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3385, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th April, 2001, and state:

(a) the progress made so far to recover the outstanding dues from M/s. Bharti Mobile Ltd.; and

(b) by when a final decision is likely to be taken on the disputes raised by the Company with regard to calculation of licence fee liability?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The company was asked on 15.02.2001 to pay the sum of Rs. 477.34 crores (approximately) towards license fee dues up to the date of termination of the Punjab Circle Cellular Service license, Wireless Spectrum Charges, Liquidated Damage Charges and interest as upto 31.01.2001. Further interest is recoverable from the company up to the actual date of payment. No payment has been received so far.

While every effort is being made to recover the dues expeditiously, in view of the legal issues involved, it would be difficult to say at this stage as to when a final decision would be taken in the matter.

Arresting wasteful expenditure of some State Governments

*232. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministers in some State Governments like U.P,

Uttaranchal, Jharkhand etc. facing financial problem on account of lavish spending on their living standard and on hospitality accounts etc.;

(b) whether the some State Governments are unable to handle the above problem;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken note of the financial problem so created on this account; and

(d) if so, the measures Government propose to take for arresting the wasteful expenditure by the Minister in various States including evolving of policy applicable to all the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Article 164(5) of the Constitution confers the power to decide salaries and allowances of Ministers of the States to the respective State Legislatures.

No State Government has approached Government of India regarding financial problem on account of levish spending by Ministers. Moreover, State Governments are responsible for management of their finances keeping in view their own resources and devolutions from Centre Under Article 151(2) of the Constitution of India, Comptroller and Auditor General of India is required to audit the accounts of the State and submit the Audit Reports to the Governor of the respective States who shall cause them to be laid before the States Legislature. The Audit Reports of the States are examined by the Public Accounts Committee and Committee on Public Undertakings of the concerned State Legislature.

Financial irregularities in Schedule, Non-Schedule Airlines and Flying Clubs

*233. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loan and other financial liabilities of the schedule and non-schedule airlines and flying clubs in the country;

(b) whether DGCA has received complaints regarding the financial irregularities committed by some of the schedule airlines, non-schedule airlines and flying clubs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them?